



U.S. Department of Justice

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News Release

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the arrests today of five individuals involved in a multi-state theft ring in which Marshall's stores on the East Coast were targeted for theft and fraud.

Those arrested were Clifton Ervin McLean, 55; Peggy Ann Clark, 35; Kekey Lisha McLean, 27; Ronnie Edward McCan, 53; and Keith Lamont Norris, 26, all of Baltimore, Maryland. They are charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit interstate transportation of stolen property.

The ring operated out of Baltimore, Maryland, but was very active in Northern Virginia, as well as Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. The scheme involved the legitimate purchase of an expensive suit from a Marshall's store. The original receipt was then reproduced several times by conspirators. After professional thieves, recruited by ring leaders McLean and Clark, stole several expensive mens suits from Marshall's, the suits were later presented for return in exchange for cash using the phony receipts. The criminal enterprise, which operated from approximately February 2004 through March 2005, would often illegally net thousands of dollars from Marshall's in a single day. The total loss to Marshall's exceeds \$250,000.

McLean and Clark were responsible for recruiting others to participate in their scheme, but also made some fraudulent returns themselves. Clark returned over \$46,000 in mens clothing to Marshall's last year. McCan and Norris each returned over \$20,000 in merchandise to Marshall's during the same period.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This was a large and sophisticated criminal scheme. We're all stuck paying more for basic goods when thieves steal from large retail chains."

This case is the result of an investigation by the United States Secret Service. Assistant United States Attorney Erik R. Barnett is prosecuting the case for the government.

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